

ENERGY TIDBITS

June 2004

MPSC U-13843 Order has granted in part and denied in part the application filed by Mackinaw Power LLC and North American Wind Energy to amend Consumers Energy's green power pilot program. The MPSC ordered Consumers Energy to assess a five-cent/meter/month charge to implement a new renewable resource program and a new funding mechanism that recovers green power program costs not covered by contributions of customers who agree to pay a premium for green power. To the extent that voluntary payments fall short of all program costs, the MPSC approved use of a five cents/meter/month customer charge levied on all customer meters. Because rate caps imposed by Public Act 141 are still in effect, the proceeds of the approved funding mechanism is limited and is estimated to be about \$2,000/month for the time that it is in effect in 2004. That amount is expected to be \$10,000/month in 2005, and \$87,500/month in 2006, when all rate caps are lifted. Residential customers will not begin paying the five cents per month charge until Jan. 1, 2006. <http://cis.state.mi.us/mpsc/orders/electric/>

MPSC U-12915 Order approved the MPSC staff's proposed 2003 annual Michigan Renewable Energy Program report and directed the staff to file the 2004 MREP report by Nov. 30. The 2004 report will include plans for the implementation of a net metering program in Michigan. If consensus cannot be reached on a statewide net metering proposal on the part of MREP collaborative members, the MPSC is directing the staff to put forth a design proposal that, at a minimum, allows net metering for all residential and small commercial customers with renewable energy systems. In addition, the MPSC directed regulated utilities with more than 250,000 customers in Michigan to issue requests for proposals for renewable energy resources or for agreements with third-party suppliers who provide green power turnkey operations by Aug. 16. Consumers Energy is exempt from this requirement because of its implementation of a renewable resource funding mechanism. The order also directed the staff to include in its 2004 report its recommendations on coordination; education; tariffs and rates; cost/benefit analysis; use of renewable energy by the State of Michigan; financing mechanisms; emission credits; portfolio standards; and a generic green power program. <http://cis.state.mi.us/mpsc/orders/electric/>

Belding Area Schools received the ENERGY STAR Building Label for Orchard Hills Elementary School.

Introductory Renewable Energy Seminars will be held on June 19 in Dimondale. Topics are Solar Water & Space Heating Systems, Photovoltaic Technology, & Wind Power. For more information: 517-646-6269, www.glrea.org, or info@glrea.org.

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Residential Energy Code public hearing will be held on June 24 at 9:30 am at the State Library in Lansing. The proposed rules would mean major new energy efficiency requirements for new homes that will be built in Michigan after January 1, 2005. The hearing notice is at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/cis_bcc_energyph_49661_7.pdf. The proposed rules are at: http://www.michigan.gov/documents/cis_bcc_energypr_49662_7.pdf.

Alternative Energy Subcommittee has been created in the Michigan House of Representatives. Rep. Ken Bradstreet, chair of the House Energy and Technology Committee, appointed lawmakers to the House subcommittee to research alternate energy sources and initiatives. They will explore and conduct research, listen to citizen feedback, perform fact-finding investigations and identify issues regarding alternate energy sources in the state. Serving as chair of the subcommittee is Rep. Bill Huizenga, R-Zeeland; Rep. Tom Casperson, R-Escanaba, is majority vice chair; and Rep. David Woodward, D-Royal Oak, is minority vice chair.

Ford Rouge Complex now has public tours. Check out the green roof and solar systems. <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/4843708/> and http://www.freep.com/entertainment/newsandreviews/rouge11_20040411.htm

Financing Energy Improvements workshop will be held on Thursday, June 24, 6:00-7:30 pm at Urban Options in East Lansing. Joe Weise, Indigo Financial Group, and Doug Black, Enerficiency, will teach homeowners ways to save money by using less energy and how they may finance the improvements. For more information please contact Urban Options (517) 337-0422.

Brewery Restaurant in Clinton Twsp. achieved a 22.3% kWh reduction by using a polarized refrigerant oil additive in the air conditioning and refrigeration equipment. When the additive is added to the refrigerant oil in a compressor, it blends with the oil and moves through the system. As each molecule attaches itself to metal surfaces, it displaces dirt, carbon deposits, and lubricating oils, eventually forming a thin layer. As a result, the system can move more heat for the same amount of compressor action. For more information, contact Thermonomics at ghhowe@hotmail.com or 248-888-9295.

Building America, a program of the U.S. Department of Energy, has worked with a number of Michigan builders to design energy efficient homes. Check them out at http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/building_america/cfm/state.cfm?state=mi&full=Michigan

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Traverse City is again celebrating alternative transportation for the 10th consecutive year on June 7-11. Formerly known as *Bike to Work Week*, the goal of Smart Commute Week is to get folks to consider alternative ways to get to work. Smart commuting includes bicycling, walking, carpooling or taking BATA. For more information: <http://www.traversetrails.org/smartcommute>

CHP Information about Michigan - http://www.chpcentermw.org/07-05_mi.html

LIVE! From the LRC is a seminar series from the Lighting Research Center of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Each month, "LIVE! From the LRC" brings lighting experts to your office via an internet-connected computer and a telephone. The cost for individual participants is \$100 per seminar. The cost for groups is \$150 per site per seminar. <http://www.lrc.rpi.edu/education/outreachEducation/livefromthelrc.asp>

Michigan Energy Appraisal: Summer 2004 from the MPSC notes that the summer energy outlook is best characterized as somewhat uncertain as consumers deal with high gasoline prices, uncertainties in the Middle East, and memories of last summer's blackout. The Energy Information Administration is projecting a June peak price of \$2.03 for gasoline easing to the \$1.90 range over the summer months. This summer's combined peak electric demand in Detroit Edison's and Consumers Energy's service territories is projected to total 21,773 MW, including retail open access load. Excluding retail open access and interruptible loads, the peak demand is projected to be 18,644 MW. This is 554 MW below Consumers' and Edison's combined in-state generating capacity of 19,198 MW. Power purchases are planned to provide adequate generation reserves. Retail open access load continues to grow in Michigan, with the number of customers choosing alternative suppliers roughly doubling in 2003 to over 13,000 customers with 2,859 MW of coincident load. The Michigan Energy Appraisal is prepared every six months. The Energy Appraisal is available at: <http://cis.state.mi.us/mpsc/reports/energy>



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